

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /073 W
-----106779 052229Z /62

R 051010Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 2059

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

DEPT PASS THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION - POSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING
BY-ELECTION: NEW HOUSE LEADER

REF: NICOSIA 2030 (DTG 031625Z AUG 77)

1. AUGUST 4 NICOSIA PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING BY-ELECTION
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DIVERGES SIGNIFICANTLY. PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI REPORTS AS A
FACT THAT ELECTION WILL BE HELD WITHIN 45 DAYS AS PRESCRIBED
BY CONSTITUTION, MENTIONS SEPT 17 AS LAST DATE POSSIBLE, AND
STATES THAT AKEL (COMMUNIST) PARTY WILL NOT PUT UP A CANDIDATE
BUT WILL SUPPORT ONE OF TWO PROBABLE OR THREE POSSIBLE
CANDIDATES. HOWEVER, PRO-MAKARIOS DAILY PHILELEFTHEROS
SPECULATES THAT MAJOR PARTIES WILL AGREE TO AVOID FULL-BLOWN

BY-ELECTION BY UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTING ONE CANDIDATE, PRESUMABLY KYPRIANOU, TO SERVE OUT REMAINDER OF MAKARIOS' PRESIDENTIAL TERM; IF THIS CANDIDATE IS UNOPPOSED IN BY-ELECTION, HE WILL BE DECLARED WINNER BY ACCLAMATION AND ACTUAL POLLING WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. THIS DEVICE, ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY SANCTIONED BY CONSTITUTION, IS PROVIDED FOR BY ELECTION REGULATIONS AND WAS USED IN 1973 WHEN MAKARIOS RAN UNOPPOSED.

2. SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS PRESUMABLY WAS MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN FOUR PARTY LEADERS (SEE NICOSIA 2027, DTG 031520Z AUG 77) A.M. AUG 4 BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT YET KNOW WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THAT MEETING. LOCAL NEWSMAN WHO SAW CLERIDES AFTER MEETING TOLD USIS OFFICER THAT MEETING WAS SOMEWHAT INCONCLUSIVE, THAT PROPOSAL FOR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF SINGLE CANDIDATE TO SERVE OUT MAKARIOS' TERM WAS TABLED, BUT THAT CLERIDES MADE COUNTER PROPOSAL: HE WOULD PREFER TO HOLD CONTESTED BY-ELECTION WITHIN 45-DAY PERIOD WITH AGREEMENT AMONG PARTIES THAT WINNER OF BY-ELECTION WOULD RUN UNOPPOSED IN REGULARLY SCHEDULED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION NEXT FEBRUARY. MEETING REPORTEDLY WAS ADJOURNED TO PERMIT CONSIDERATION OF CLERIDES' PROPOSAL.

3. AT EARLY MORNING SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOUSE MEMBERS EULOGIZED MAKARIOS AND ELECTED NEW ACTING PRESIDENT OF HOUSE TO SERVE IN KYPRIANOU'S ABSENCE.
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NEW ACTING PRESIDENT OF HOUSE, AND THEREFORE IN LINE FOR SUCCESSION TO PRESIDENCY OF REPUBLIC BEHIND KYPRIANOU, IS ALECOS MICHAELIDES, 44 YEARS, WHO IS SERVING FIRST TERM IN HOUSE. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR TO FREEZE CLERIDES OUT OF HOUSE ELECTIONS, IS CONSIDERED TO BE A KYPRIANOU PROTEGE, AND IS CHARACTERIZED AS ABLE BUT INEXPERIENCED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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